

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 32-48 are pending in the present application. The present amendment cancels Claims 29-31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Initially, Applicants respectfully request that the references AO-AX cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed April 21, 2004 be acknowledged as having been considered in the next Office Action. The references AO-AX were submitted together with an English abstract, in addition, the references AO-AT were all addressed in Applicants' specification in the discussion of the related art, from page 2, line 25, to page 4, line 26, thereby providing a statement of relevancy. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the IDS filed April 21, 2004 fully complies with the requirements of MPEP 609.04(a)-III, and therefore request acknowledgement of consideration of these references.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 29-31 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,835,981; herein "Huang"). Claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Furukawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,555,891; herein "Furukawa") in view of Huang. Claims 32-48 were allowed.

In response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection and the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection, Claims 29-31 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, to thereby put the application in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 32-48 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)